Statement-II

Estimated population of wild elephants

Region	State	Elephant Population	
		2002	2007
North-East	Arunachal	1607	1690
	Assam	5246	5281
	Meghalaya	1868	1811
	Nagaland	145	152
	Mizoram	33	12
	Manipur	12	Nil
	Tripura	40	59
	West Bengal (North)	292	300-350
Total for North-East		9243	9305-9355
East	West Bengal (South)	36	25
	Jharkhand	772	624
	Orissa	1841	1862
	Chattisgarh	-	122
Total for East		2649	2633
North	Uttarakhand	1582	1346
	U.P.	85	380
Total for North		1667	1726
South	Tamilnadu	3052	3867
	Karnataka	5838	4035
	Kerala	3850	6068
	Andhra Pradesh	74	28
	Maharashtra	-	7
Total for South	.	12814	14005
Islands	Andaman & Nicobar	40	NA
Grand Total		26413	27669-27719

Killings of wild animals

2677. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rhinoceros, leopards, tigers and other wild cats killed during the current year so far along with the comparative figures for the last three years;

(b) the number of poachers and others booked for poaching and other related crimes; and

(c) the reasons for increase in poaching and related crimes and the steps taken to prevent such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per the information available in the Ministry details of rhinoceros, tigers and lions killed during current year so far with comparative figures for last three years are as follows:

S. No.	Years	Rhino	Tiger	Lion
1.	2009	13	59	0
2.	2008	16	28	0
3.	2007	21	30	14
4.	2006	9	22	2

Details of leopards and other wild cats are not collated at the Ministry.

(b) As per the information received in the Ministry 265 persons have been booked for poaching and other related crimes in the current year.

(c) Main reasons for poaching and related crimes are lucrative clandestine international market for wildlife produce and man-animal conflict. Steps taken to prevent wildlife crime are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.

2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.

3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.

4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

5. The State/UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.

6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildiife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.

7. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', a new component has been added for initiating 'Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats" during the 11th Five Year plan period.

Legal provisions against exploding crackers

2678. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the fact that the practice of exploding crackers, bombs etc. on religious occasions like Diwali and on weddings is on the increase in the country, thereby, aggravating the population level quite often, there is any proposal under Governments consideration, in consultation with State Governments, to make the legal provision for strict action against those indulging in such practices; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order, dated 18th July, 2005, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 72 of 1998 read with Civil appeal No. 3735 of 2005 arising out of SLP (C) No. 2185/2003, has ordered that there shall be complete ban on the bursting of sound emitting firecrackers between 10 pm and 6 am. The Hon'bie Apex Court has further said that it is not necessary to impose restrictions as to time on bursting of colour/light emitting firecrackers. The said orders are implemented by concerned Authorities notified under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 across the country.

Cleaning of Ganga River

2679. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended the target to clean river Ganga by 2020;

(b) if so, the details of the course of action;

(c) whether due to sewage of cities along the river and industrial waste/pollution Ganga has become a dirty drain;

(d) whether it is a fact that sewage treatment capacity in different cities of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal are not sufficient and in accordance with the need; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps Government has taken/proposes to take to make Ganga pollution free, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Ganga Action Plan was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga. Various pollution abatement